



**Borough of South Molton**

---

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

### **For the Year 1946**

---

**F. J. H. MARTIN,**  
**M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Oxon),**

**Medical Officer of Health.**



113, East Street,

South Molton,

July, 1947.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Councillors of the Borough of South Molton.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report  
on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the  
Borough for the year 1946.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

*M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon),*

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30114251>

# South Molton Borough

---

## LIST OF STAFF.

---

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

### Part-time Officers:—

F. J. H. MARTIN,  
M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Oxon),  
Medical Officer of Health.

H. J. ELWORTHY, Clerk.

### Whole-time Officer:—

H. SETTLE, C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.



## Statistics and Social Conditions of Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,910
Population	...	...	...	...	...	2,911
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	852
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£13,378
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£55

### Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	20	18	38
Illegitimate	3	2	5
Birth rate per 1,000 population	- 14.4		<u>43</u>

	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	0	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	- 44.4		<u>2</u>

	Males	Females	Total
DEATHS	17	26	43
Death rate per 1,000 population	- 14.4		

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	0

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for South Molton Borough and England and Wales:—

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age
South Molton Borough	14.4	0.68	14.4	23	0
England and Wales ...	19.1	0.53	11.5	43	4.4

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

					Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
							<hr/>
							1
							<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	23·
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	26·3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	0

## Deaths over 65 years of age.

65—70	...	7	80—85	...	5
70—75	...	8	85—90	...	4
75—80	...	12	90—95	...	0
			Over 90	...	0

## Causes of Death.

					Males	Females
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	0
Cancer of Uterus	...	...	...	...	0	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	0
Cancer of all other Sites	...	...	...	...	0	4
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	2	0
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	5	11
Other Disease of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	0	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	0
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases	...	...	...	...	0	2
All other causes	...	...	...	...	1	2
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					17	26
					<hr/>	<hr/>

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1946  
(excluding Tuberculosis).

Four notifications were received during 1946, all being cases of Pneumonia, their ages being 20, 51, 67, and 74 years.

## **Tuberculosis.**

During the year two cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	0

The patients were aged 22 and 56 years.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

## **Diphtheria Prophylaxis.**

The number of children immunized during the year was 316 as follows :—

1 to 14 years of age	...	...	117
Reinforcement doses	...	...	199

The material used was A.P.T.

The Ministry of Health now considers that the protection conferred after a treatment lasts for 5 years and advise a Reinforcement dose every 5 years so as to protect the child during his school life.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.**

### **Professional Nursing in the Homes.**

No provision is made by the Local Authority.

One District Nurse is provided by voluntary organisation.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

The Isolation Hospital is at Tiverton.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

These are provided by the Devon County Council at Exeter and are of the greatest service to the Borough and the Medical Profession.

### **The V.D. Clinic.**

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary (Annex), Barnstaple.

#### **SESSIONS.**

<i>Females</i> —Thursdays, 4.45 p.m.	<i>Males</i> —Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.
Fridays, 3.30 p.m.	Fridays, 4.30 p.m.



## Ambulance Service.

The South Molton and District Ambulance is manned by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

## Water Supply.

The supply is obtained from the gathering grounds on the foothills of Exmoor, and is impounded in the Holywell Reservoir which contains approximately 7,000,000 gallons. It is piped therefrom to the filter house at Westland Bridge and is passed through three "Candy" Pressure Filters and thence by trunk main of 6 inches diameter to the Service Reservoirs at North Road, South Molton; the Service Reservoirs being two in number and containing 340,000 gallons; the water is then distributed through the town mains of varying diameters. The water is analysed at regular intervals and the Analyst's Reports are very satisfactory, the general description being that the water "is of a high degree of chemical and bacteriol purity." I find that the Filters and system generally are maintained in a highly efficient manner by the employee in charge. There is a Chlorination Plant at the service reservoirs which, however, has been out of action for some weeks owing to mechanical breakdown, but this is now undergoing repair and will be in operation again in a short time.

## Sewage Disposal.

The Sewers serving the town are generally satisfactory and appear to be of sufficient size to take flood water. The outfalls at Cook's Cross, Mole Bridge and West End Terrace are, however, obsolete and generally are incapable of properly treating the sewage. A scheme is in course of preparation for the provision of new Sewage Disposal Works and Trunk Sewer, etc., by Messrs. Lemon & Blizzard, Consulting Engineers, of Plymouth, in co-operation with your Surveyor; the estimated cost of same at the moment being £33,600. When this scheme is completed, I consider the town will be well served with regard to sewerage matters.

I desire to thank the Town Clerk and Mr. Settle for their valuable help to me.

F. J. H. MARTIN.





